



# Young Voices of Freedom

## A Patriotic Art & Essay Contest for K-12 Students

As the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026, Point Blank Community is hosting an art and essay contest celebrating America's Semiquincentennial.

This contest invites Coldspring-Oakhurst ISD, Onalaska ISD, and other students of the area in grades K-12 to reflect on what makes America special. The competition is divided into three levels: high school, middle school, and elementary school. Cash prizes will be awarded at each level in two areas: writing and artwork.

The high school winner will receive \$100 per category, while the top middle school and elementary school submissions will each earn \$50 in each category. Students may submit only one essay entry and/or one artwork entry. The submission deadline is June 1, 2026. Submission can be made digitally via email at [usa250@usa250-pb.com](mailto:usa250@usa250-pb.com) or by calling: 281-757-0682 to make arrangements to submit physical entries.

First Place Essay Winners will have an opportunity to read their work on stage. All artwork will be displayed during the Celebrate America 250 Festival at 7360 US Hwy 190, Point Blank, Texas from 10 AM- 4 PM on Saturday, July 4, 2026.

Through art or essay, students are encouraged to share how their life, family traditions, community, or culture reflects the spirit of America. Work will be judged on the student's Voice and Clarity of Ideas. Students may choose from various prompts for essays and artwork listed below.

### Elementary School 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

Essay requirements are 100-400 word count writing to the prompt. Artwork may include drawing, painting, collage, digital art, or photography.

Artwork should represent the prompt selected. Maximum size for artwork submissions: 18"x 24".

#### Prompts

- **Happy Birthday, America!**

America is turning 250 years old! What is one birthday wish you have for our country? Write or draw about your wish and why it is important.

- **Celebrating America**

Prepare a written piece or create artwork about what makes the 4<sup>th</sup> of July important to America and to you and to your family. How should we celebrate this special day?

- **Freedom in America**

What does it mean to you and your family to be American Citizens? What freedoms do you enjoy in America?